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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,759	09/15/2003	Uwe Bacher	02581-P0544A	1909
24126	7590	03/23/2006	EXAMINER	
ST. ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS, LLC 986 BEDFORD STREET STAMFORD, CT 06905-5619			SAM, CHARLES H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,759

Applicant(s)

BACHER, UWE

Examiner

Charles H. Sam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/11/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/15/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/12/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LeMarie,III et al. 5366477 in view of Strait 2334449. LeMarie discloses a medical instrument with a shaft 18, a handle 14 mounted on the proximal end of the shaft 18, and a tool (50,52) mounted on the distal end of the shaft 18 and activated by the handle 14, wherein the handle 14 and the tool (50,52) are in active connection by means of at least one activation rod (20) and the tool (50,52) can be secured detachably by means of a tool shaft on the activation rod (20), for which purpose the tool shaft (242) and the activation rod (248) have protuberances (246) which can be joined in a form-locking connection with corresponding recesses (244), wherein the recesses (244) and protuberances (246) corresponding to one another are configured in such a way that the

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tool (50,52) and the activation rod (20) can be brought into engagement with one another by means of a movement exclusively in one direction essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the activation rod (20). Note figures 1-3, 11a, 1b and 12.

LeMarie discloses the invention as claimed except the claimed coupling between the activation rod and the tool. However, Strait discloses such coupling between male member 10 and female member 11. It would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify LeMarie by using the coupling as taught by Strait to provide an easy and quick connection and disconnection between the two members of the coupling.

Regarding claim 2, LeMarie teaches the tool (50,52) secured to the activation rod (20) in such a way that forces can be transmitted in the longitudinal direction of the activation rod (20) and/or torsion forces can be transmitted to the tool (50,52).

Regarding claim 3, LeMarie teaches the tool (50,52) and the activation rod (20) connected with one another by means of a motion essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the activation rod (20).

Regarding claim 4, LeMarie teaches the activation rod (20,204,274,304) and the tool shaft (242) configured as essentially round in cross-section.

Regarding claims 5-7, LeMarie teaches the recited connection means of the claim with the stud (212,214) and hole 216. Note figure 11a-11b.

Regarding claims 8-9, LeMarie teaches the recited spring 332.

Response to the Applicant Remarks

3. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/11/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments regarding the detachable connection as in the amended claim 1 are not convincing because the claimed connection is clearly disclosed by the Strait reference.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles H. Sam whose telephone number is (571) 272-4703. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



CS
March 20, 2006



ANH TUAN T. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

3/20/06